

May 8, 2007

Mr Gary King
Attorney General
State of New Mexico
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Mr. King:

I am writing you as a constituent of New Mexico and an employee of the Alamogordo Public Schools. In my position with the school district, I have reason to believe that the elected school board is acting in violation of various laws of the State of New Mexico.

On March 1, 2007, two new board members took office on the board and joined two other members that had been in constant conflict with the previous board. The new members won their respective elections on the platform that the block schedule at Alamogordo High School needed to be eliminated.

At that board meeting (7am), they elected one of the previous two members that had been in conflict, President of the board. This person has been in constant criticism of the district, its employees and the curriculum. Immediately afterwards, they voted to put the Superintendent on administrative leave for the remainder of his contract (June 30, as he had already resigned and the previous board accepted). All this was without any discussion, comments or reason in open meeting.

They then began to have "work sessions" for the purpose of appearing to gather information about the success or failure of the block schedule. During these work sessions, overwhelming support of the block schedule came to light from teachers, parents and staff. However, on March 21, 2007, the board voted to eliminate the block schedule at the high school. In fact earlier in the meeting, even before there was a motion or discussion, board member Alan Rickman, made public comments to the effect that it was the consensus of the board that the schedule was not working. I believe this statement is the beginning of evidence that the board is violating the state Open Meetings Act, but conducting business outside the knowledge of the general public. Mr. Rickman also made several public statements, picked up by the local media, where he stated that the decision had been made and would be in acted on in the monthly board meeting.

As the Director of Technology, I have been privy to selected emails from President Sue Medina to other members of the board soliciting behind the scenes opinions and votes prior to open board meetings. Attached, please find a couple of email communicates to this effect. [redacted] and [redacted] can provide additional proof of these emails. I believe these emails constitute a rolling meeting in violation of the Open Meetings Act of NM.

If this were isolated incidences, or the board had not been informed that this was not acceptable, it might be excused, but several district personnel, including [redacted] have repeatedly informed Ms Medina that this is not acceptable. Additionally, the school attorney firm Cuddy, Kennedy and Ives, reportedly sent a 9 page directed email to Ms. Medina informing her of these violations as well. It was so apparent that this board had an agenda on many fronts, that lone previous board member, Irene Pittman, resigned her position.

[redacted]

The current board is in process of conducting Superintendent search for a new leader. Currently, they have received 7 applications from qualified individuals. And while it is in their pervue to select a new person, they are again seeking to mislead the public by conducting faux public interviews and comment sessions. In their emails to each other, they have already identified a person to hire, but are going to set up community events that lead the public at large into thinking they have input, when the decision has already been made behind the scenes.

There is also an issue with personnel information that Ms. Medina and/or Mr. Halbig chose to share with community outside of the protection of Executive Session about past Superintendent Philip Knight, in an effort to gain support for their relieving him of his duties March 1. For more information on this, you might contact

The final point I want to make is that the board thinks they are above the law and hiding from the law, as they all have secured private email accounts to conduct these conversations. To do a complete investigation will require access to several local Internet service providers to gain access to complete email records. However, as mentioned earlier, also have some of these emails in their records as well and are willing to share with authorities. All board members have been provided a free district email address. Attached, please find an email between Ms Medina and myself regarding the concept of confidentiality. It is apparent to me that she thinks by not using the district provided email accounts for the school board, they can in fact, hide their conversations or be protected from accusations. Here is a list of the outside email accounts that are being used, should be a part of public record, and otherwise not provided, backed up or archived by the school district.

Susan Medina -
Alan Rickman -
Rhonda Cross -
Joe Halbig -
David Ceballes -

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Korwin, Director, Technology Support Services
Alamogordo Public Schools